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TAGS: PFOR IT (KISSINGER, HENRY)

SUBJ: ITALIAN MEDIA REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM ITALIAN MEDIA REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW. COMMENTS RANGE FROM EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING VOICED BY MODERATE CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND LA STAMPA AND THE NATIONAL RADIO/TV NETWORK (RAI) TO HARSH CRITICISM FROM LEFTIST IL MESSAGGERO AND THE COMMUNIST PRESS. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ORGAN IL POPOLO CHARGES SECRETARY KISSINGER WITH HOLDING "A GRUDGE" AGAINST EUROPE.

2. JANUARY 4 CORRIERE DELLA SERA FRONT-PAGED EDITORIAL BY ALBERTO RONCHEY WHICH ANALYZES POSSIBILITY OF OIL WAR, OFFERS SEVERAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AND NOTES THAT ALL PREVIOUS PROPOSALS IN OIL DISPUTE--LIKE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES, WESTERN CONSUMPTION PLANNING, ETC.--HAVE PROVEN USELESS. "PERHAPS HINT OF POSSIBLE RESORT TO WAR IS ADDRESSED TO WESTERN ALLIES, WHO ARE DIVIDED AND UNABLE TO FORM COUNTERCARTEL OF BUYERS. MESSAGE MAY HINT THAT ONE SHOULD NOT RULE OUT RISK THAT WAR MAY START CHAIN REACTION ENDING IN NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION OR IN SOVIET-AMERICAN DOUBLE-DOMINATION IN MIDDLE EAST. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR EUROPE TO ACCEPT MINOR RISK AND GET
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PAGE 02 ROME 00233 081725Z

A LEADER FOR ITSELF. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT KISSINGER'S

DOUBLE TALK, SOFTENED BY SUCCESSIVE EXPLANATIONS, MAY BE ADDRESSED TO SOVIET POWER ELITE, AS A WARNING THAT MIDDLE EAST AND OIL ARE VITAL QUESTIONS, MORE IMPORTANT THAN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS FOR SOVIET UNION....BUT ONLY TOTALITARIAN SOCIETIES CAN SOLVE GEOPOLITICAL OR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH MILITARY INTERVENTIONS." RONCHEY REFERS TO SOVIET INVASION OF EUROPE AND CHINESE INVASION OF TIBET AND SAYS THAT DEMOCRACY CANNOT BEHAVE IN THIS WAY WITHOUT CHANGING ITSELF. REST OF ARTICLE ANALYZES MISTAKE MADE IN INCREASING OIL PRICES TOO MUCH. "EXCESS POWER KILLS POWER. AS ISRAEL IS SUSPECTED OF NOURISHING SAMSON COMPLEX, SO ARAB OIL POWER THREATENS ITSELF TOGETHER WITH OUTSIDE WORLD."

3. JANUARY 5 CORRIERE DELLA SERA FRONTPAGES REPORT FROM PARIS BY GIORGIO SANSA IN WHICH HE NOTES THAT "KISSINGER SHOCKED MANY, BUT ALL HE DID WAS SAY OUT LOUD WHAT FOR MONTHS HAS BEEN WHISPERED IN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCLES. WHO WILL BLAME HIM? WHO WOULD BEHAVE DIFFERENTLY WITH HIS BACK TO THE WALL? THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL FACT IS THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WAS MADE NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SO MANY WORDS. SOME COMMENTATORS SPEAK OF THREATS; BUT THIS IS ONLY A WARNING THAT AMERICA, AND QUITE CERTAINLY THE OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, HAVE THOUGHT OF EXTREME REACTIONS IF THEY ARE THREATENED. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS AND A THREAT IS FUNDAMENTAL." SANSA DISCUSSES SOVIET ROLE: "IF USSR DID NOT EXIST IN ALL ITS POWER, A MILITARY ACTION WOULD HAVE ALREADY STARTED, OR BETTER, THE ARABS WOULD HAVE NEVER OPENED THEIR PRICE OFFENSIVE." SANSA POINTS OUT THAT "CONSULTATIONS AMONG CONSUMERS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN MARCH, WITH PRODUCERS-CONSUMERS MEETING TO FOLLOW IN JUNE. IF CONSUMERS DO NOT UNITE, THE WEST WILL CERTAINLY HAVE TO FACE MORE TROUBLES."

4. JANUARY 5 IL MESSAGGERO FRONTPAGED SARCASTIC UNSIGNED EDITORIAL WONDERING "WHETHER WE ARE ON EVE OF NEW TROJAN WAR OR CRUSADE." QUOTES JFK THAT MIDDLE EAST IS "MONUMENT TO WESTERN INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS" AND ACCUSES SECRETARY KISSINGER OF BEING REACTIONARY AND BRUTAL MAN BEHIND A JOVIAL FACADE.

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PAGE 03 ROME 00233 081725Z

5. LA STAMPA FRONTPAGES ARTICLE BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT VITTORIO ZUCCONI: "KISSINGER SPOKE CLEARLY WITHOUT CONCESSIONS TO DIPLOMATIC NUANCES OR TO PROPAGANDA. THE INTERVIEW WAS HARSH IN TONE AND CONTENT. ALL THE COLD BUT INCONTROVERTIBLE KISSINGER LOGIC IS CONTAINED IN THESE WORDS, ALONG WITH THE REALISM OF SOMEONE WHO IS STRONG--AN UNPLEASANT REALISM BUT ONE THAT THOSE WHO ARE LESS STRONG CAN HARDLY OPPOSE." SAME PAPER JANUARY 5 CARRIES EDITORIAL BY DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR

CARLO CASALEGNO UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER'S BRUTAL RECALL TO REALITY." CASALEGNO WRITES: "KISSINGER CAN MAKE MISTAKES, DESPITE HIS SUPERMAN ASPECT, OR ATTEMPT BLACKMAIL, OR BE PREJUDICED AGAINST EUROPE OR THE COMMUNISTS. BUT IT CANNOT BE BELIEVED THAT HE HAS ISSUED WITHOUT GOOD REASON THOSE ALARMING STATEMENTS WITH WHICH HE CONFIRMED OUR FEARS. KISSINGER'S BRUTAL WORDS MAY APPEAR BITTER EVEN IN THEIR PROMISE OF HELP. WHILE OFFERING HOPE AND SECURITY, AMERICAN HELP MAY HAVE A POLITICAL PRICE. BUT THE SITUATION IS AS THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE HAS PRESENTED IT; AND THE ONLY WAY TO COUNT ON THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE (NECESSARY TO EUROPE) WITHOUT PAYING WITH BINDING TIES, IS FOR ITALIANS TO MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO ESCAPE THE DOUBLE RISK OF ECONOMIC BANKRUPTCY AND POLITICAL COLLAPSE."

6. JANUARY 4 PAESE SERA BACKPAGES HEADLINE, "KISSINGER'S ARROGANCE IS WITHOUT LIMITS." PAPER CHARGES SECRETARY WITH INTERFERING IN ITALIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. SAME PAPER CARRIES FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL BY CHIEF EDITOR GIORGIO CINGOLI NOTING THAT THESE POLITICAL GAFFES ARE TOO FREQUENT NOT TO BE CALCULATED." CINGOLI IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF SECRETARY'S POSITION TOWARDS EUROPE AND ARAB COUNTRIES AND CONCLUDES THAT HIS AIMS ARE TO ESTABLISH AMERICAN WORLD DOMINATION.

7. REACTION TO SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW WAS LEAD ITEM WEEKEND AND MONDAY IN UNITA' WHICH STRESSES "THREATS CONTAINED IN INTERVIEW."

8. AVANTI FOREIGN NEWS EDITOR FRANCESCO GOZZANO, CRITICAL OF INTERVIEW, FORESEES "DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES WHICH INCLUDE EXASPERATING ARAB NATIONAL PRIDE AND MAKING DETENTE PRECARIOUS."

9. IL POPOLO IS UPSET BY KISSINGER'S "OLD ANIMOSITY AGAINST
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PAGE 04 ROME 00233 081725Z

EUROPE" IN FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL IN JANUARY 5 EDITION HEADED, "WHY DOES KISSINGER HAVE IT IN FOR EUROPE?" EDITOR SASSOLI NOTES THAT NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW OCCURRED IN INTERVIEW "APART FROM HARSH TONE." HE SAYS: "MAIN POINT WAS TO STRESS THAT DURING 1975 ALL WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES SHOULD AGREE ON GROUND ON WHICH THEY WILL STAND TOGETHER TO DIALOGUE WITH OIL PRODUCERS. KISSINGER HAS BEEN REPEATING THIS FOR A YEAR. IF SOMETHING CAN BE DEDUCED FROM THESE STATEMENTS, IT IS IMPLICIT ADMISSION THAT MARTINIQUE COMPROMISE IS WEAK." FOLLOWING AN ANALYSIS OF GISCARD'S D'ESTAING'S POSITION (GISCARD IS SEEN TO HAVE ALIGNED HIMSELF WITH AMERICA), SASSOLI NOTES THAT "IN THIS INTERVIEW, AS IN PREVIOUS ONES, IT IS NOT HARD TO DETECT THE ECHO OF SECRETARY'S OLD GRUDGE AGAINST EUROPE. IN HIS EYES, THE FAULT OF THE OLD WORLD NATIONS IS NOT TO HAVE SUPPORTED WITH ENOUGH

ENERGY AND CONVICTION HIS MEDIATION IN MIDDLE EAST WHILE THEY PROCLAIMED THEIR RIGHT TO PURSUE THEIR OWN POLICIES TOWARD ARAB WORLD. BUT WE CANNOT SAY THAT KISSINGER'S ANIMOSITY TOWARD EUROPE IS SOMETHING NEW. ALSO OLD THAT IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT, ALREADY PREVIOUSLY DRAMATIZED BY HIM, THAT THE U.S. WILL INTERVENE TO SAVE ITALY AND ENGLAND FINANCIALLY. AS MOST OF SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW WAS KEYED TOWARD EUROPE, ONE WONDERS WHETHER HE HAS LET HIMSELF BE CARRIED AWAY A BIT IN MAKING USELESS DIATRIBES, AS HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST. THIS HAPPENS TO THE MOST EXPERIENCED POLITICIANS."

10. TV SECOND CHANNEL JANUARY 7 CARRIED DISCUSSION OF KISSINGER'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW BY PROMINENT ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS EXPERT (PROFESSOR S. SILVESTRI) WHO ADVISED AGAINST OVER-DRAMATIZATING KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS: "WHICH SHOULD BE VIEWED IN CORRECT PERSPECTIVE."

11. IL RESTO DEL CARLINO JANUARY 8 FRONTPAGED EDITORIAL BY CHIEF EDITOR GIROLAMO MODESTI SUPPORTING SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST. MODESTI STRESSES US ROLE IN PRESERVING WORLD FREEDOM AND PEACE AND PRAISES US DETERMINATION TO PREVENT THE WEST FROM BEING STRANGLERED BY OIL BLACKMAIL. VOLPE

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